

## Seeking advice from the National CDS Team

R5 is seeking CDS assistance with their East St. Louis CDS community

### Context:

East St. Louis is in an Environmental Justice area, Opportunity Zone, located on the Illinois side of the Mississippi River, and directly across from St. Louis. The population is about 35,000, mostly African American and mostly low-income (92%).

Asthma related emergency department visits and hospitalizations are among the highest in Illinois. The City is located next to 4 Superfund sites and many other areas of concern. The area is adjacent to heavy industry.

The lead partner is the City of East St. Louis. For the past 3.5 years we've reached out to several nonprofit organizations, faith-based organizations, State/local and other federal agencies. (see attached for full list of partners)

### Challenges/Issues:

The community needs help with:

1. Educating residents and conducting indoor air quality assessments for asthma triggers in the home, childcare facilities and/or schools\*
2. Flooding, sewage and standing water issues in the community and homes/mold remediation
3. Lead paint abatement
4. Vacant, deteriorated, unsafe structures in need of demolition
5. Port initiative

\* Last year, We Care Clinic- SIU/E conducted 55 home visits through their ATAP (Asthma Trigger Assessment Program). About 2 years ago, EPA did IAQ assessments in public housing units (high-rise, row and single-family homes), childcare facilities and senior citizen recreation buildings. Additional homes need to be assessed and more in-depth assessments need to be conducted.

### Request:

1. Is there a tool, resource and/or example someone has tried to support a community experiencing some of these same issues?
2. Are there any funding mechanisms you are aware of that I can point the community towards?

### POCs:

- Rochelle Marceillars, [ [HYPERLINK "mailto:Marceillars.rochelle@epa.gov" \h](mailto:Marceillars.rochelle@epa.gov) ]
- Jim Van Der Kloot, [ [HYPERLINK "mailto:vanderkloot.james@epa.gov" \h](mailto:vanderkloot.james@epa.gov) ]